



Emergency Management Division

Washington Military Department

Vision, Mission and Organization

Background

Washington State experiences natural hazards including floods, wind and storm damages, wildfires, and volcanic eruptions. The state is especially vulnerable to earthquakes. It also faces technological hazards, including terrorism, nuclear power plant incidents, chemical weapon stockpile incidents, and hazardous materials spills—all of which require well-organized preparedness, coordination, and effective response at the state and local levels. The Emergency Management Division's focus is to work in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies, volunteers, and private organizations to reduce the potential effects of these hazards. Authority for Emergency Management Division (EMD) includes Chapters 38.52 and 38.54 RCW and Title 118 WAC.

In February 2002, the Washington Emergency Management Division reorganized. The changes are the result of an extensive study of the division's performance and effectiveness. While the division's employees are equal to the unprecedented challenges of 2002, the review identified how to improve effectiveness. The goals in the division's reorganization are to make hazard mitigation a top priority and to improve the disaster recovery program by making it an integral part of EMD's excellent response program.

Vision

A disaster resistant Washington.

Mission

Minimize the impacts of emergencies and disasters on the people, property, environment, and the economy of Washington State.

Organization

Emergency Management is a division of the Washington Military Department that includes the Washington Army and Air National Guard. The Adjutant General, Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg, serves as the State Military Department's Director. Glen L. Woodbury is the Director of the Emergency Management Division.

EMD coordinates emergency management programs with local governments, public agencies, private organizations, businesses, communities, and individuals to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. In addition to the Director's Office, there are four units within the division: Enhanced 911, Mitigation, Analysis and Planning; Response and Recovery, and Policy, Programs and Training.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

EMD Director's Office provides leadership, policy direction, and oversight for all the division's programs and activities. The Office also serves as liaison with emergency management partners at the local, state and federal levels. The office coordinates and manages the division's budget and emergency-related public information.

ENHANCED 9-1-1

The Enhanced 911 Unit coordinates and facilitates the planning and installation of E911 systems that identify the address and phone number of most emergency calls. The Unit provides technical, financial and educational assistance to local government and supports the E911 Advisory Committee and its work groups. The Unit further provides guidance on a national level to build standards that will improve Washington E911 systems.

MITIGATION, ANALYSIS & PLANS

Mitigation Section

The Mitigation Section provides access to competitive grant funding and technical assistance following a major disaster or emergency declaration. These grants fund projects to reduce or eliminate the threats of hazards, and support all-hazard mitigation planning. The section also administers annual funding for hazard-specific projects, such as earthquake, flood, tsunami, volcano; and hazard mitigation planning, in addition to coordinating and maintaining the State's Hazard Mitigation Strategy. Additionally, the section reviews local hazard mitigation plans, participates in the development of national policies in hazard mitigation, earthquake, and tsunami preparedness, and coordinates the implementation of state and federal laws and regulations to meet multi-objective planning—educating and integrating Mitigation into land use and building policy decisions. Support for the Seismic Safety Committee is a growing element.

Analysis & Plans Section

The Analysis and Plans Section researches and develops emergency management applications from GIS and Remote Sensing technology to assist local jurisdictions and state agencies in developing preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery strategies. Additionally, it provides plan reviews for local and state agencies and is responsible to coordinate the state hazard analysis and vulnerability assessment (HIVA) and the comprehensive emergency management plan (CEMP).

POLICY, PROGRAMS & TRAINING

Policy & Programs Section

The Policy and Programs Section coordinates and manages state and federal programs that assist local governments, businesses, individuals, and private entities in emergency preparedness. In addition, the Section provides staff support to the State

Emergency Management Council, the State Emergency Response Commission, Seismic Safety Advisory Committee, and Committee on Terrorism.

Training Section

The Training Section develops and conducts emergency management training designed to improve the skills and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of emergency management personnel. It develops, conducts, and evaluates emergency management training and exercises to test the capabilities of contingency plans and the abilities of emergency personnel. The Section also develops public education materials to motivate individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools and businesses to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

RESPONSE & RECOVERY

Operations Section

The Operations Section manages the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) through all phases of activations. It operates an alert and warning center 24-hours-a-day. It supports missions including search and rescue operations, fire mobilizations, hazardous materials incidents, and severe weather notification .

Telecommunications Section

The Telecommunications Section maintains the readiness and compatibility of EMD's automation, telecommunication and radio systems. The Section provides technical assistance to local governments and participates in policy development on statewide automation and communication systems through various committees and commissions.

Recovery Section

The Recovery Section administers multiple federal disaster recovery programs for emergencies and major disaster events assisting individuals, businesses, local, state, and tribal governments and certain private nonprofit organizations. The primary programs implemented in this Section include the Human Services Program, the Public Assistance Programs, and the Federal Fire Management Program.

Contact

For more information, please call Tim Clark, Chief of Staff, at (253) 512-7002, e-mail t.clark@emd.wa.gov.